

Holy Spirit Vestry Retreat Summary

Sunday, April 29th 2018

PRESENT: Jennifer Allen, John Crowley, Elizabeth Ettenger, Don Gisselbeck, Terri Ann Grotzinger, Mary Jennings, Helen Matveyeff, Tom Todd, Jim Wiley, Ann Wiltse

EXCUSED: Glenn Hladek, Candice Lindsay

- 1) Opening Prayer – Terri
- 2) Terri gave an overview of her experience at the Clergy Conference held April 17th to 20th at Camp Marshall. It was very valuable for her, as clergy from across the Diocese discussed their shared experiences. She passed round copies of two books by Dennis Maynard. Maynard presented at the conference and Terri ordered copies of his book, Preventing a Sheep Attack for all members of the Vestry to read and later discuss. Healthy congregations are the most vulnerable and so it behooves leadership to be mindful of the all-too-common issue of an individual or small group of folks making a concerted effort to attack and undermine leadership, be they clergy or laity. Terri made it clear that we are not experiencing such things at Holy Spirit and that this is something to do for prevention much like our Safeguarding training to prevent harm to our children and youth.
- 4) The Vestry reviewed a set of documents from the Diocese that gave snapshots of the Financial Statistics and Vital Statistics of all congregations in the diocese. John and Terri explained how the assessments are calculated and how to understand the information. Holy Spirit continues to be up to date with assessment payments.
- 5) Stewardship was reviewed, and Terri asked the Vestry to consider ways that the next stewardship appeal may be framed to generate a greater number of pledges or increase in pledged amounts. In 2016, we asked each pledging unit to increase their pledge by 6% -- and this resulted in a 9.9% increase in pledged amounts the first year but less than the ask since. The Vestry will work with the Stewardship Committee to address this effort as they did in 2016. The Vestry discussed new technologies that will need to be implemented soon in order to accommodate a new generation of donor, those who donate electronically or via mobile device.
- 6) The Vestry has for several years seen the need for an Assistant Priest to assist the Rector. The Vestry is aware that there are potential opportunities and shifts in duties and ministries that will come with

Gretchen Strohmaier's ordinations, first to the Transitional Diaconate and then after a minimum of 6 months her Ordination to the Priesthood. The Vestry began an initial discussion of what might be possible and will continue to focus on this as a priority going forward. Topics included but were not limited to: continuing to lift up lay led ministry in Spiritual Formation overall, and in re-envisioning our ministries to families, children and youth to address the rapidly-changing needs brought about by the wider culture in which we live.

- 7) Terri thanked the Vestry for their time, and the group thanked Tracey for providing lunch & snacks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Wiltse
Clerk of the Vestry